

HOUSE BILL NO. 1771

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the House Committee on Appropriations

on _____)

(Patron Prior to Substitute--Delegate Freitas)

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 7 of Title 44 a section numbered 44-210, relating to Employers of National Guard and Reserve Members Grant Fund and Program.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Chapter 7 of Title 44 a section numbered 44-210 as follows:

§ 44-210. Employers of National Guard and Reserve Members Grant Fund and Program.A. For purposes of this section:"Department" means the Department of Military Affairs.

"Eligible employee" means a person who is (i) an employee, as defined in § 58.1-460, of an employer; (ii) a member of the National Guard of the Commonwealth of Virginia or the Reserves of the United States Armed Forces; and (iii) a Virginia resident.

"Employer" means any employer subject to the taxes imposed pursuant to Chapter 3 of Title 58.1."Fund" means the Employers of National Guard and Reserve Members Grant Fund."Program" means the Employers of National Guard and Reserve Members Grant Program.

B. There is hereby created in the state treasury a special nonreverting fund to be known as the Employers of National Guard and Reserve Members Grant Fund, referred to in this section as "the Fund." The Fund shall be established on the books of the Comptroller. All funds appropriated for such purpose and any gifts, donations, grants, bequests, and other funds received on its behalf shall be paid into the state treasury and credited to the Fund. Interest earned on moneys in the Fund shall remain in the Fund and be credited to it. Any moneys remaining in the Fund, including interest thereon, at the end of each fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund but shall remain in the Fund. Moneys in the Fund shall be

used solely for the purposes of (i) providing grants to employers of eligible employees through the Program established pursuant to subsection C and (ii) administering and implementing the Fund and Program. Expenditures and disbursements from the Fund shall be made by the State Treasurer on warrants issued by the Comptroller upon written request signed by the Director of the Department.

C. The Employers of National Guard and Reserve Members Grant Program is hereby established for the purpose of awarding grants to employers who employ eligible employees. The Program shall be administered by the Department. The Department shall establish guidelines and procedures as it deems necessary for the administration of the Program, including guidelines and procedures for grant applications and awards. Grants shall be awarded only to employers with 300 or fewer employees. In addition, each eligible employee for whom the employer is claiming the grant shall have been continuously employed by the employer for at least 12 months. The amount of the grants shall be \$1,000 per fiscal year for each eligible employee, up to a maximum of \$10,000 per employer for each fiscal year.

D. Grants shall be issued in the order that each completed eligible application is received. In the event that the amount of eligible grants requested in a fiscal year exceeds the funds available in the Fund, such grants shall be paid in the next fiscal year in which funds are available.

E. The Department shall report to the Chairmen of the House Committee on Appropriations and the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations no later than October 1 of each fiscal year after the Program is implemented on the demand for the Program and any shortage of funding resulting from requests in excess of the available appropriation.

F. In no event shall an employer receive a grant pursuant to this section if such employer also receives any other grant in the same fiscal year for the same eligible employee from a program established for the purpose of creating employment opportunities for veterans.

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